



Wisconsin Dog Training and Trialing Regulations

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This publication gives you a summary of Wisconsin's laws which pertain to individuals who possess a bird dog or hound dog training license, a bird dog or hound dog trial license, or a dog club training license. It is not a complete set of laws.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

The following licenses require the completion of a dog training/trial license application, which is available at your local DNR service center or the Internet (www.dnr.state.wi.us). Each license must be approved by the DNR wildlife biologist for the county where the training or trial activities are to take place.

Dog Training Licenses

Each of the 3 types of dog training licenses are valid until the third December 31st after the date of issuance.

Example: A license issued in June of 2003 is valid until December 31, 2005.

Bird Dog Training License

\$25.00

Issued to any individual who is at least 12 years of age who files a dog training license application and pays the applicable fee.

A bird dog training license allows you to purchase, possess, release into the wild, hunt and use approved species for dog training purposes only. This license does not authorize commercial shoots or organized hunts or the selling, breeding, or propagation of captive wild birds. Bird dog training licenses are not required on licensed bird hunting preserves or licensed dog club training properties.

A bird dog training license allows you to possess and use the following species for dog training purposes: captive-bred bobwhite and other species of quail of the subfamily *Odontophorinae*, gray partridge, chukar partridge, red-legged partridge, mallard duck, ring-necked and reeves pheasants.

Individuals issued a bird dog training license are subject to the following requirements:

- ❖ **Display of license.** While engaged in bird dog training, the licensee must be in possession of the license and make the license available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized DNR agent upon request.
- ❖ **Location.** Train only on the properties identified and approved on the license.
- ❖ **Captive wild bird identification.**
 - A. All bobwhite quail, pheasants and gray partridge used for dog training to be released and killed under the authority of a dog training license shall, prior to release, be tagged around the leg with a bird dog training leg band supplied by the department.
 - B. Captive mallards used for dog training shall be identified by one of the following methods prior to 6 weeks of age:
 - (1) Removal of the hind toe from the right foot; or
 - (2) Tattooing of a readily discernible number or letter or combination thereof on the web of one foot; or
 - (3) Banding of one metatarsus with a seamless metal band; or
 - (4) Pinioning of a wing by removal of the metacarpal bones of one wing or a portion of the metacarpal bones which renders the bird permanently incapable of flight.
- ❖ **Bird bands.** The licensee and persons assisting them may not have on their person while engaged in dog training any unused department dog training bird bands. Wild birds and birds that are not banded or identified as required above may not be killed during training exercises.

Note: Dog training bands (Form #9400-566) are available through any DNR Service Center free of charge, or by calling the Bureau of Wildlife Management at (608) 266-8204.

Hound Dog Training License

\$25.00

Issued to any individual who is at least 12 years of age who files a dog training license application and pays the applicable fee.

A hound dog training license allows you to purchase, possess and use captive rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat for dog training purposes, and use captive black bear possessed under the authority of a captive wild animal farm license for dog training purposes. The license does not authorize commercial or organized shoots, selling, breeding, or propagating of animals, or training of dogs with the use of captive black bear on DNR lands. A hound dog training license is required to be possessed by:

1. The owner of any enclosure into which captive coyote, fox or bobcat are released or possessed.
 2. Anyone who purchases, possesses, or releases into the wild, any captive rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat for dog training or trials.
 3. Anyone who hunts captive or released rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat with a firearm or bow or otherwise humanely kills any of these species for the purpose of training dogs to track or trail these species.
 4. Anyone who releases or places dogs into a hound dog training enclosure to pursue captive rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat.
 5. Anyone who possesses and uses a black bear for training hound dogs. A captive wild animal farm license is also required to possess a bear.
- Note: A license is not required for anyone who only observes or only handles the dog during the training activity.

In addition, individuals issued a hound dog training license are subject to the following requirements:

- ❖ **Display of license.** While engaged in hound dog training, the licensee must be in possession of the license and make the license available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized DNR agent upon request.
- ❖ **Location.** Train only on the properties or areas identified and approved on the license.
- ❖ **Raccoon identification.** Captive raccoons used for dog training shall be tattooed, ear tagged or held by restraint or placement in a cage.

- ❖ **Captive bear.** Captive black bear may be used for dog training purposes provided:
 1. The bear is possessed under authority of a captive wild animal farm license.
 2. The bear is kept in a cage at all times (see section on *Care and Treatment of Birds and Animals* for cage requirements).
 3. All individuals except the owner, the owner's designee or the dog handler shall be kept at least 4 feet from the cage by a barrier, such as a sturdy rail or fence.
 4. Dogs shall be kept a minimum of one foot from the cage at all times by restraint or barrier fence except where the cage is covered by solid material.
 5. The cage shall be adequately shaded at all times.
 6. The bear shall have access to fresh water.
 7. Roll cages may not be used for dog training with bear.

Dog Club Training License

\$100.00

Issued to an **organization** that owns or leases land for the purpose of training bird dog or hound dogs to retrieve, point, flush or track game, that files a dog club training application and pays the applicable fee. A dog club training license cannot be issued for lands that are not owned or leased by the club.

Similar to the bird dog training license, a dog club training license allows the members of a club to purchase, possess and use certain approved captive wild birds that are bred in captivity for bird dog training. This license also authorizes club members to possess and use captive wild rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat for hound dog training. The license does not authorize the use of captive bear, commercial shoots, animal selling, breeding or propagation. Training under this license may only take place on properties owned or leased by the club.

Again, the species authorized for use under a dog club training license are captive ring-necked and reeves pheasants, bobwhite quail and other quail of the subfamily *odontophorinae*, gray partridge, chukar partridge, red-legged partridge, and mallard ducks that are bred in captivity, as well as captive raccoons and rabbits.

All requirements of the bird dog and hound dog training license apply to a dog club training license **except** for the display of license requirements. The dog club training license shall be kept at the clubhouse or training grounds where the training activity is occurring. If a club member is engaged in training activities but not within one-quarter mile of the clubhouse, the member shall be in possession of a copy of the dog club training license. Club members shall make the license available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized DNR agent upon request.

Dog Trial Licenses

Both the bird dog trial license and the hound dog trial license are valid until the first December 31st following the date of issuance. Example: A license issued in June 2003 is valid until December 31, 2003.

Bird Dog Trial License

\$25.00

A bird dog trial license authorizes the licensee and participants to engage in an organized competitive field event that involves sporting dog breeds and that is sanctioned, licensed or recognized by a local, state, regional or national dog organization. This license does not authorize commercial shoots involving any of the authorized species or the selling, breeding or propagation or bobwhite quail or mallard ducks. Bird dog trial licenses are not needed on bird hunting preserves licensed for the use of the same species.

A bird dog trial license allows you to purchase, possess and use the following species for dog trialing purposes: captive-bred bobwhite and other quail of the subfamily *odontophorinae*, gray partridge, chukar partridge, red-legged partridge, mallard duck, ring-necked and reeves pheasants.

In addition, individuals issued a bird dog trialing license are subject to the following requirements:

- ❖ **Display of license.** A bird dog trial license shall be in the possession of the grounds marshal during dog trialing activities and must be made available to any DNR conservation warden or other DNR authorized department agent upon request.
- ❖ **Location.** The licensee and participants may conduct trials only on the properties identified and approved on the license.
- ❖ **Captive wild bird identification.** Captive wild birds released and killed under the authority of a dog trial license do not have to be marked prior to release, except for captive mallards (see marking requirements in the 'bird dog training license' section).

Hound Dog Trial License

\$25.00

A hound dog trialing license allows the licensee and participants in an organized competitive field event that involves sporting dog breeds and is sanctioned, licensed or recognized by a local, state, regional, or national dog organization to possess and use captive rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox, bobcat or bear. The license does not authorize commercial shoots or selling, breeding or propagating of animals or training of captive black bear on department lands.

In addition, individuals issued a hound dog trialing license are subject to the following requirements:

- ❖ **Display of license.** The license shall be in the possession of the Master of Hounds during the trial event. The license shall be made available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized DNR agent upon request.
- ❖ **Location.** The licensee and participants may trial only on the properties or locations identified and approved on the license.
- ❖ **Raccoon identification.** Captive raccoons used for dog trialing shall be tattooed, ear tagged or held by restraint or placement in a cage.

- ❖ **Captive bear.** Captive black bear may be used for dog trialing purposes provided:
 1. The bear is possessed under authority of a captive wild animal farm license.
 2. The bear is kept in a cage at all times (see section on *Care and Treatment of Birds and Animals* for cage requirements).
 3. All individuals except the owner, the owner's designee or the dog handler shall be kept at least 4 feet from the cage by a barrier, such as a sturdy rail of fence.
 4. Dogs shall be kept a minimum of one foot from the cage at all times by restraint or barrier fence except where the cage is covered by solid material.
 5. The cage shall be adequately shaded at all times.
 6. The bear shall have access to fresh water.
 7. Roll cages may not be used for dog trialing with bear.

CARE AND TREATMENT OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS

Captive wild birds possessed for dog training purposes shall be treated in a humane manner and confined under sanitary conditions with proper and adequate space, shade, food and fresh water. If birds are severely injured, they shall be humanely killed. Primary and transportation enclosures for captive-bred bobwhite quail and mallards shall meet the requirements in § NR 16.30 to 16.38, Wisconsin Administrative Code. (See separate DNR informational pamphlet on *Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards* for details.)

Captive rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat possessed for dog training purposes shall be treated in a humane manner and confined under sanitary conditions with proper and adequate space, shade and fresh food and water. Any captive wild animals that are severely injured shall be humanely killed. Primary and transportation enclosures for captive rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat shall meet the requirements in § NR 16.30 to 16.38, Wisconsin Administrative Code. (See separate DNR informational pamphlet on *Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards* for details.)

Cages used for captive rabbit, raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat during training exercises shall meet the following requirements:

1. The cage is strong enough to contain the raccoon securely and comfortably and to withstand the normal rigors of training.
2. The interior of the cage shall have no sharp points or edges and no protrusions that could injure the raccoon contained in it.
3. The cage shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow the raccoon to make normal postural adjustments with adequate freedom of movement to sit, stand on all 4 legs and lie in a normal manner.
4. When the cage is elevated in a tree or on a pole for training purposes, the cage shall be raised a minimum of 10 feet off the ground.

Cages used for captive bear shall be constructed so that:

1. The cage is strong enough to contain the bear securely and comfortably and to withstand the normal rigors of training.
2. The interior of the cage has no sharp points or edges and no protrusions that could injure the bear contained in it.
3. The bear is at all times securely contained within a cage with mesh size no greater than 2 square inches in a way that it is not likely to result in injury to itself, to handlers, or to persons or animals nearby.
4. The cage shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow the bear to make normal postural adjustments with adequate freedom of movement to sit, stand on all 4 legs, turn around and lie in a normal manner.
5. Permanent devices such as handles or handholds shall be provided on the exterior that enables the cage to be lifted and ensures that anyone handling the cage will not come into physical contact with the bear contained inside.
6. When the cage is elevated in a tree or on a pole for training purposes, the cage shall be raised a minimum of 10 feet off the ground.

RECORD KEEPING, PROOF OF LEGAL POSSESSION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A person who holds a dog training or trial license must be in possession of a receipt or invoice that shows the captive animals were purchased or obtained from a legal source. The licensee shall make the receipt or invoice available to any DNR conservation warden or other authorized department agent upon request. The receipt or invoice must include the following:

1. The complete name and address of the person from whom the wild animals were purchased or acquired or of the person to whom any wild animals were transferred.
2. The number of any license issued under the authority of ch. 169, Stats., held by the seller if applicable.
3. The date of the transaction.
4. The number, sex and species of the wild animals purchased, acquired or transferred.

Any person who possesses captive coyote, fox or bobcat must maintain daily records of all transactions or activities involving these species and submit an Annual report as well as Quarterly reports by April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31 each year for the previous 3 months on department forms. Record and reporting forms may be obtained from the department and you may copy them as needed. If you have your own record-keeping system, forms or computer program you may use that system provided the records contain all the information required on the department forms. Failure to keep or file required accurate records or reports can result in revocation of the person's dog training or trial license.

DOG TRAINING AND TRIALING ON FREE-ROAMING WILD ANIMALS

Except as described in 'Prohibitions' below, any person may train dogs on free-roaming wild animals without a dog training or trialing license.

Prohibitions

- ❖ **Department lands.** Dogs shall be controlled on a leash not longer than 8 feet in length from April 15 - July 31 on all DNR public hunting lands with the exception of Class 1 and Class 2 dog training grounds.
- ❖ **Exceptions for training on raccoons and rabbits.** Except where prohibited in state parks, campgrounds, natural areas and other posted areas, from July 1 to the following April 14th, hound dogs may be trained on free-roaming raccoons and rabbits on department lands without a leash.
- ❖ **Northern restricted zone.** Dog training on any captive or free-roaming wild animal is prohibited May 1 to June 30 on all lands within the northern restricted zone, except as follows:

In 2004, 2005 and 2006, a person may train or trial dogs on captive or free-roaming raccoons and rabbits in the northern restricted zone May 1 to June 30 provided all the following apply:

1. The licensee applies for and receives a hound dog training or trialing license.
2. The licensee complies with any restrictions placed on a license to prevent the intentional or unintentional pursuit of wild bear.
3. The licensee may list up to 3 townships in the same or adjoining counties for training purposes.
4. The department approves the property locations listed.
5. No more than 2 dogs in a single pack may be used to pursue raccoon or rabbit for training purposes regardless of the number of persons assisting or accompanying the hound dog training license holder and regardless of the dog ownership.
6. For trialing purposes, the location of the Master of Hounds and the name of any approved state properties where the dog trials are to be held shall be listed on the hound dog trial license and application.

- ❖ **Bear dog training period.** An individual may ONLY use dogs to pursue free-roaming wild bear from July 1 to August 31 and provided:
 - The person possesses a class A or B bear license or is under age 12;

- Each dog is uniquely tattooed or wears a collar with the owner's name and address attached;
- No more than 6 dogs in a single pack may be used to pursue bear regardless of the number of persons assisting the licensee and regardless of the dog ownership.

NOTE: Bears may not be pursued where prohibited in state parks, state campgrounds, state natural areas or other posted or restricted areas.

- ❖ **Killing wild animals.** No person engaged in training dogs may kill or cause to be killed any free-roaming wild animal including unprotected wild animals without department approval.

- ❖ **Revocations.** Pursuant to s. 169.45(7), Stats., the department may revoke a dog training license issued under s. 169.20, Stats., when dogs are found to be running bear in the northern restricted zone at times other than the July 1 to August 31 bear dog training period established under s. NR 10.101(2)(b).



Northern Restricted Zone.

Hunters: A hound dog training license is not required to train on free roaming bear during the July 1 to August 31 bear dog training period. A class A or B bear hunting license is required to train during this period. Bear may only be hunted with the aid of dogs during the open season for hunting bear with dogs.

DOG TRIALS ON DEPARTMENT LANDS

Applications should be made before March 1 for trials held on or prior to July 31 and before July 1 for trials held after July 31 to coordinate scheduling with other events. Applications will be considered on a first-come first-serve basis and must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the date of the trial.

Captive wild pheasants, when provided by the DNR, may only be used on department lands and may not be shot at dog trials unless authorized by the department. All unused live game birds provided by the department shall be released on the trial grounds at the end of the event. All animals, which are no longer alive, should be consumed or disposed of properly and promptly.

The department may cancel or reschedule dog trial events and restrict or prohibit dog trial equine or vehicle use if excessive damage occurs or is likely to occur to soils or vegetation on department lands. License fees shall be refunded if a trial is canceled by the department and an alternative site or date cannot be established. All trash and other waste materials including field trial markers are to be removed at completion of the trial. A grounds marshal or Master of Hounds is responsible for the dog trial coordination, supervision, clean up and regulation compliance shall be designated by the licensee for each field trial. Equines may be used only as authorized by the trial license.

CLASSES OF FIELD TRIAL GROUNDS

Class 1 field trial and training grounds

Class 1 grounds are those department lands that are posted, marked or designated where dog trials are allowed year-round, except hunting shall have priority. Class 1 field trial grounds include the following:

- 1) Richard Bong state recreation area- the west unit of the special use zone
- 2) George W. Mead wildlife area
- 3) Lower Wisconsin River wildlife area- Mazomanie unit
- 4) Kettle Moraine state forest- Ottawa unit
- 5) Pine Island wildlife area

Class 2 field trial and training grounds

Class 2 field trial and training grounds include all other DNR lands designated on the license and approved by the local state wildlife biologist. Department lands will not be approved if dog training or trialing is determined to be inconsistent with the master plan, property plan, wildlife management objectives, or federal requirements.